

POUND RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE May 14, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

*\*NB – All votes are assumed to be unanimous unless otherwise noted.*

**PRESENT:** Chairman Peter Gallagher, Vice Chairman Joe Roemer, Commissioner Frank Tavalacci, Commissioner David Ekholm, Commissioner Edward Trail, Caretaker Sam Dodge, Chief Vincent Zafonte.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Secretary/Treasurer Justin Friedland,

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Gallagher called the regular meeting of the Pound Ridge Fire District to order at 7:06 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Commissioner Roemer's motion to accept the March minutes was seconded by Commissioner Trail and was unanimously approved.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Commissioner Trail's motion to approve payment of the bills as submitted, was seconded by Commissioner Roemer and was unanimously approved.**

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Commissioner Roemer's motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Commissioner Trail and was unanimously approved.**

Treasurer Friedland asks again that the two signature rule for all checks be amended to allow just the signature of the Treasurer to suffice for recurring, operational bills, such as heating oil, telephone service, electric service, garbage service, and other such bills that impose a penalty for late payment. This would help to solve this problem and avoid late charges. Sense of the board is to stay with the two signature policy.

Treasurer reports that accountant has told him that the surplus in budget from 2022 was \$22,093.00. Surplus from 2023 was \$74,200.68. Suggestion is to move \$76,000 to the Land and Improvement Reserve Fund, and retain \$20,000 in the General fund against emergencies.

**Commissioner Tavalacci makes motion to move \$76,000 to Land and Improvement Reserve Fund.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

**Commissioner Ekholm makes motion to retain \$20,000 in General Fund against emergencies. Seconded by commissioner Tavalacci.**

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** 27 calls in April. (list attached)

**MEMBERSHIP** New member Chiara Castelucci. Peter Titelbaum and Raphael Pazos resigned effective immediately and their resignations were accepted by the membership at last night's meeting.

**CHIEF'S PURCHASES** Two bids have come in for the new Chief's Truck. Karl Chevrolet had a bid of \$82,740.70. Denoyer Chevrolet in Albany bid \$84,297.

**Commissioner Ekholm makes a motion to go with the bid from Karl Chevrolet of \$82,740.70, pending final approval by Chief Rienzi. Seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

Purchases continued-

Chief Zafonte says \$755 is needed to fix the Polaris which has a tire problem.

\$307 more is needed for an off-road tire.

Requests \$4,480 from Radio Communications budget for 3 communication packages: 1 for ATV, 1 for Polaris, 1 for Chief, which would bring us to a total of 6 such packages.

Hose testing found one bad link, at a cost of \$4,333.80. We would use what's left in the hose testing budget, then supplement with money from the Equipment Maintenance line.

**Motion by Commissioner Trail to make these purchases. Seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.**

Caretaker Dodge asks for a new remote mouse at a cost of \$70. Also asks for permission to spend an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to purchase a new printer for the officers.

**Commissioner Ekholm makes the motions for the mouse and the printer, seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

LONG TERM PLANNING UPDATE: Nothing new.

### **EXPANDED LONG TERM PLANNING AND ADDITION -**

- We now have the plans and specs for the addition. 5 or 6 changes needed. Foundation footings need changing. DeSalvo working on it.

- Waiting for the bid package from Walt.

- Discussion of how to proceed: Start with the possibility the project might have to stop in the event of a lawsuit or complaint or wait. Question about who is liable in the event that we do start and then stop. What are the payment responsibilities in the event this happens.

WATER SUPPLY: Consultant still looking at 10 hydrants. Report still due. Water test of our well came back with slightly elevated levels of PFOAs and PFOSs. Need to get a better understanding of what the results mean.

INSURANCE: Need to drop Peter Tietlebaum and Pazos.

COMPUTER: NR

TOWN & PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: NR

MEDICAL: Physicals scheduled for end of May and beginning of June. Also had a member at a car accident with possible exposure to HIV. Commissioner Roemer to investigate next steps. Chairman Gallagher suggests creating a procedure for this kind of occurrence.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: Need to start with County on renewal of Reservation Contract which expires at end of year. Chairman Gallagher and Treasurer Friedland to handle.

**Secretary Friedland asks for \$300 to purchase new stationery. Motion by Commissioner Tavollaci, seconded by Commissioner Roemer.**

**Chief asks for permission to carry civilian prize winners in chief's truck. Motion by Commissioner Tavolacci, seconded by Commissioner Ekholm.**

**Commissioner Ekholm makes motion to go into Executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Seconded by Commissioner Trail. In at 8:54, out at 9:06**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Roemer's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Trail and unanimously agreed to by all the attending Commissioners. Accordingly, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin Friedland Secretary/Treasurer